

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /077 W

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R 201003Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3270

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EAID MR FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH-MAURITANIAN DIALOGUE

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 0021 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SINCE MID-DECEMBER THREE HIGH LEVEL FRENCH DELEGATIONS HAVE VISITED MAURITANIA. FRENCH EMBASSY HERE HAS DOWNPLAYED THEIR IMPORTANCE STRESSING THEY EITHER "ROUTINE," "PRIVATE," OR "COURTESY" IN NATURE. DESPITE LACK OF SPECIFIC RESULTS, VISITS HAVE RE-OPENED DORMANT FRANCO-MAURITANIAN DIALOGUE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MID-DECEMBER DELEGATION OF AID EXPERTS HEADED BY STEPHEN HESSEL OF MINISTRY OF COOPERATION VISITED MAURITANIA. FRENCH EMBASSY DESCRIBED IT AS ONE OF SEVERAL MAKING "ROUTINE" SURVEY OF ALL FRENCH AID PROGRAMS. TEAM VISITED LASTED, HOWEVER, FOUR DAYS AND INCLUDED EXTENSIVE TRAVEL AS WELL AS MEETING AND DINNER WITH PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH. DECEMBER 30 PRIMIN CHIRAC MADE BRIEF
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"PRIVATE" VISIT TO NOUADHIBOU WHERE HE MET WITH MAURITANIAN

FONMIN MOUKNASS (REFTEL). FINALLY, FRENCH COOPERATION MINISTER ABELIN ARRIVED IN NOUAKCHOTT JANUARY 12 FOR WHAT FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELLOR DESCRIBED PRIVATELY AS TWO DAY "COURTESY" VISIT. MAURITANIANS PAID CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO ABELIN, INCLUDING MEETING WITH SEVERAL MINISTERS AND TWO SESSIONS WITH PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH. THERE WERE NO ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY SPECIFIC RESULTS FROM THESE MEETINGS ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HEARD ABELIN WAS PRESSED FOR FRENCH ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING 1200 KM NOUAKCHOTT-NEMA ROAD.

3. COMMENT: IT DOUBTFUL OULD DADDAH WILL ATTEND FEBRUARY CONFERENCE IN BANGUI OF FRENCH-SPEAKING CHIEFS OF STATE WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING (PARIS 1408) IN LIGHT OF MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT'S CAMPAIGN TO END ALL VESTIGES OF "NEO-COLONIALISM" (MOST RECENT EXAMPLE BEING MIFERMA NATIONALIZATION). THESE RECENT HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH VISITORS AND THEIR WARM RECEPTION BY GIRM HAVE, HOWEVER, REVIVED FRANCO-MAURITANIAN DIALOGUE WHICH HAS BEEN SILENT SINCE 1973 WHEN NOUAKCHOTT ABROGATED MILITARY AND FINANCIAL ACCORDS WITH FRANCE. FRENCH HERE SAY GIRM HAS REASSURED THEM CONCERNING MIFERMA INDEMNIFICATION AND MAURITANIANS HAVE DOUBTLESS BEEN PROMISED, AT LEAST, CONTINUATION OF NEEDED FRENCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. SHINN

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